

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:12
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
HIJACK DRAMA OF AN ALLIANCE AIRLINES PLANE
C. SREENIVAASAN;SHIVAJI MANE

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an Alliance Air Boeing 737 flight on the Mumbai-Delhi route was reportedly hijacked on October 3, 2001 and later the message was found to be false;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a committee has been appointed to look into the declaration of hijacking;
- (d) whether the said committee has since submitted its report;
- (e) if so, the recommendations/ observations made by the committee and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (f) the details of the various steps and methods devised by the Government to meet the danger of hijacking in the passenger plane?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.12 DATED 19.11.2001.

(a) to (f): On 3.10.2001 at 23.22 hours an anonymous telephone call was received about the imminent hijacking of Alliance Air aircraft CD-7444 operating on Mumbai-Delhi sector. This message was received when the flight was already in operation. The message was conveyed to the aircraft with the instructions thereon from the Commissioner of Security(CA) to take necessary precautionary measures. However, as the message regarding the hijack threat and the instructions thereon of Commissioner Security were conveyed together, it was construed by the pilot of the aircraft that the entire message was from COS(CA) rather than based on from an anonymous telephone call. The pilot-in-command after receiving the assessment of the situation in the cabin concluded that the plane had indeed been hijacked and passed on the hijack signal to the ground.

Based on the message received from the aircraft, an alert was sounded to all concerned. As per the systems in place, necessary precautionary measures were initiated on ground for handling the unlawful interference in aviation activity.

It was only after the National Security Guard Commandoes entered the cockpit, later into the cabin and segregated the two suspected passengers, it had become clear that there were no armed hijackers on the aeroplane. A high level Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs to examine in totality the situation arising out of the chain of events triggered by an anonymous telephone call regarding the imminent hijacking of flight no. CD-7444 operating on Mumbai-Delhi sector. The Committee has since submitted its report.

The Committee has inter alia recommended:-

- (i) Revision of Contingency Plan, relevant manuals and guidelines to eliminate mismatch between flight crew and ground personnel;
- (ii) Development of standardized phrases and words to avoid ambiguity;
- (iii) To develop proper system of training and briefing of flight crew and cabin crew;
- (iv) Fitment of close circuit TV cameras at appropriate points in the cockpit/passenger cabin;
- (v) To provide Caller-identification as well as recording systems.

The Committee also recommended that the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security and Director General of Civil Aviation introduce new security and safety measures being considered by ICAO and aircraft manufacturers.

The report of the Committee has since been received and accepted by Government.